A NOTE FROM BETTY: LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

In our wildest dreams, we wouldn't have predicted the events of last year, or the ways in which the pandemic would fundamentally change the way we deliver services. In response, our agency and impact has grown at a remarkable rate.

Since March, we've prevented the evictions of 1,200 people, sheltered more than 350 individuals, and moved 177 people into stable housing. Our COVID-response has also led to a $5 million investment in the local economy through restaurant partnerships, eviction prevention support paid to local landlords, hotel and shelter operations, and staff wages for our expanded workforce.

Our latest annual impact report has more than just numbers though. I hope you will enjoy reading the words of gratitude from participants, partners, and staff. Check it out here!

On this exciting and historic day, we too are looking to the future. We know that our vision to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring in our community is possible and within our reach. We know it's possible because of committed supporters like you. Together, we will get through this. Together, we will end homelessness, one person at a time.

Gratefully,

Betty A. Bogg

Volunteer Opportunities

We are looking for volunteers to help at our Chicago Ave. drop-in. Get involved and sign up here today!

Currently accepting donations of:
ADULT XL+ WINTER COATS ONLY
ADULT WINTER BOOTS & SHOES SIZE 11+
ADULT WINTER HATS, GLOVES, SCARVES
ADULT MEN'S SHIRTS
ADULT UNDERWEAR
ADULT SOCKS
HAND WARMERS

Drop-off at:
2121 Dewey Ave.
M-F 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
or 1458 Chicago Ave.
M-F 3 - 5 p.m.
Our biggest event of the year is taking place virtually on **Saturday, Feb. 20**! Save the date for THRIVE 2021 for an evening of great music, one-of-a-kind cooking and cocktail making demos, mingling with new and familiar faces, and a special inside look into the lives of participants we have helped move from hotel to housing during the pandemic. You won’t want to miss this special event. Learn more and visit our **#THRIVEISALIVE webpage** now!

**ICYMI: CONNECTIONS IN THE NEWS**

Earlier this month, we were joined by Cook County Board President, Toni Preckwinkle and others to announce our expanded meal initiative. Cook County invested $30,000 seed money in the program and we raised $50,000 in private fundraising to expand our existing meal program. Now, we also deliver meals to 60 recently housed individuals purchased from local restaurants.

Read more in [Chicago Tribune](https://www.chicagotribune.com), [Evanston RoundTable](https://www.evastonroundtable.com), [Evanston Now](https://www.evanstonnow.com), and [Evanston Patch](https://www.evanstonpatch.com). Or you can watch the [Shop to Donate](https://www.shop2donate.com) and [Feels Like Home Amazon Wish List](https://www.amazon.com) to help furnish participants’ new homes!
Our strong partnership with Cook County is helping us meet the rapidly growing need for eviction prevention, shelter, and housing in our community. Partnerships like these show that when everyone – local government, philanthropists, business leaders, nonprofits, neighbors – come together, we can take bold steps toward achieving our vision of ending homelessness in Northern Cook County.

Thank you to Cook County and Rotary International, NorthShore University HealthSystems, Byline Bank, Lewis-Sebring Family Foundation, former Mayor of Evanston Elizabeth Tishdahl, and local business owner and Chairman of Cook County Health Foundation Joe Flanagan for investing in this initiative. We are grateful for Chef Q. Ibraheem, La Principal, La Cocinita, Firehouse Grill, and Viet Nom Nom for their continued partnership!

Read more recent Connections news on our new News & Archives page!

Ending homelessness, one person at a time.